

Date: September 10, 2002

Re: Office of Community Service

Mayor Bob Young announced today the creation of the Mayor's Office of Community Service.

Mayor Young said: "I am thrilled to be able to use the mayor's office to assist volunteer efforts in the City of Augusta. I've said many times that being a citizen of Augusta is not a spectator sport."

The office is a partnership with the National Corporation for Public Service, which is providing a VISTA volunteer to the city to staff the office. Mayor Young said he is in the process of interviewing for the position this week.

According to the mayor: "The terrorist attacks and recession have hurt faith-based networks and volunteer organizations financially, yet at the same time the demand for their services has increased. This is an opportunity for the mayor's office to help these groups in a number of ways."

The Mayor's Office of Community Service will have three principle tasks: 1) to engage citizens in volunteer opportunities; 2) to assist non-profits and faith-based organizations to increase their financial capacity and resources; and 3) support the City of Augusta's participation in the USA Freedom Corps.

The mayor said: "I am pleased to have been able to use my relationship with the chairman of the National Corporation for Public Service, former Indianapolis mayor Stephen Goldsmith, to obtain the grant to create this important office."

The position is funded for up to three years. The city's responsibility is for incidental administrative costs.